

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 44 were pending in the application at the time of issuance of the advisory action. Claims 1 to 7, 9 to 12, 14, 15 to 18, 20 to 28, 30 to 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 44 remain rejected as anticipated. Claims 8, 13, 29, 35, 38, 41 and 43 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The specification has been amended to correct a grammatical error.

The MPEP requirements for claim interpretation were presented in the paper dated October 16, 2006 and are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully note that each claim limitation is supposed to be correlated with the teachings of the specification and that interpretation used. Nevertheless, to avoid discussions on whether Applicants are requesting the Examiner to read limitations into the claims from the specification, the claims have been amended to include the definitions from the specification. Specifically, Claims 1, 9, 15, 25, 30, 33, and 39 have been amended. The amendments are supported, for example, at least by paragraph [1018] and paragraph [1022] of the specification.

Claims 4 and 26 are amended to correct antecedent basis informalities.

Claims 1 to 7, 9 to 12, 14, 15 to 18, 20 to 28, 30 to 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,071, hereinafter referred to as White.

Applicant respectfully traverses the anticipation rejection of Claim 1. The rejection has failed to cite any teaching of the structure with a branch direction and an associated branch prediction qualifier as recited in Claim 1.

The rejection relies on the sets in ways 204 (Fig. 6B) of White as branch direction indicators. However, White taught:

The L1 (level one) Cache 204 is a 16K byte unified data/instruction cache, organized as 4 way set associative with 256 sets and 4 ways per set, with each way in each set constituting a location for a 16 byte (4 dword) cache line (i.e., 256.times.4 cache lines). The Cache can be operated in either write-through or write-back mode--to support a write-back coherency protocol, each cache line includes 4 dirty bits (one per dword).

White, Col. 10, line 63 to Col. 11, line 3.

Thus, White taught that L1 Cache 204 is a data/instruction cache. This fails to teach anything concerning a structure with entries for a branch direction indication that is used in determining a prediction of an outcome of a branch instruction instance. Thus, White fails to teach the invention to the same level of detail as recited in Claim 1. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1.

Each of independent Claims 9, 15, 25, 30, 33 and 39 includes limitations similar or equivalent to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, the remarks with respect to Claim 1 are applicable to each of these claims and are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 9, 15, 25, 30, 33 and 39.

Each of Claims 2 to 7 depends from Claim 1 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 2 to 7.

Each of Claims 10 to 12 and 14 depends from Claim 9 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 9, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 10 to 12 and 14.

Each of Claims 16 to 18 and 20 to 24 depends from Claim 15 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 15, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 16 to 18 and 20 to 24.

Each of Claims 26 to 28 depends from Claim 25 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 25, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 26 to 28.

Each of Claims 31 and 32 depends from Claim 30 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 30, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 31 and 32.

Each of Claims 34, 36 and 37 depends from Claim 33 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 33, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 34, 36 and 37.

Each of Claims 40 and 42 to 44 depends from Claim 39 and so distinguishes over White for at least the same reasons as Claim 39, which are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of each of Claims 40 and 42 to 44.

Claims 8, 13, 29, 35, 38, 41 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Assuming that the combination of references is correct for each of these claims, the additional material relied upon from the secondary reference does not correct the deficiencies of White with respect to the independent claims from which these claims depend. Therefore, each of Claims 8, 13, 29, 35, 38, 41 and 43 distinguish over the combination of

references for at least the same reasons as the independent claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of each of Claims 8, 13, 29, 35, 38, 41 and 43.

Claims 1 to 44 remain in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

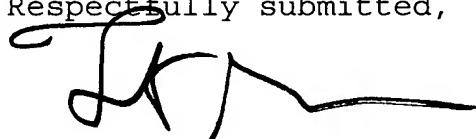
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 16, 2006.



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November 16, 2006
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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